

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated September 13, 2006. Claims 1-16 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-16 have been rejected. Claims 1 and 5 have been amended to address §101 rejections, in order to place the claims in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been presented. Claims 15 and 16 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-14 remain pending. For the reasons set forth more fully below, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as presented are allowable. Consequently, reconsideration, allowance, and passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Allowed Claims

The Examiner has stated in the previous office action mailed April 10, 2006:

Claims 1 to 4 and 15 are allowed.

Claims 5 to 14 and 16 would be allowable once the 112 second paragraph rejection is overcome. ... order to limit the spread of errors by using a generator polynomial with elements of a Galois field. The prior art made of record also teaches that the generator polynomial is irreducible; however, the prior art made of record taken alone or in combination fails to teach or fairly suggest or render obvious the novel element of the instant invention.

Specifically, the prior art made of record fails to teach or fairly suggest a method for encoding and decoding a received bit chain by building a matrix using elements of the Galois field of a multiplicative group and a circular permutation as detailed in independent claims 1 and 5.

Applicants note with appreciation that claims 1-4 and 15 are allowable and that claims 5-14 and 16 would be allowable once the §112, second paragraph, rejection is overcome. In the previously filed Amendment, filed July 7, 2006, claims 5-14 and 16 have been amended to overcome a §112, second paragraph, rejection. In the current Amendment, claims 15 and 16 have been canceled to address a new §112 rejection, as described below, and claims 1 and 5 have

been amended to address a new §101, as described below. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-14 are allowable.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner has stated:

Claims 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. Claims 15 and 16 are single means claims and the scope of the claims is not commensurate with the specification.

Claims 15 and 16 have been canceled.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §101

The Examiner has stated:

Claims 1 to 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the independent claims (1 and 5) seems to be directed merely to mathematical manipulation and does not produce a tangible and useful result. The language of the claim raises a question as to whether the claim is directed merely to an abstract idea that is not tied to technology art, environment or machine which would result in a practical application producing a concrete, useful, and tangible result to form the basis of statutory subjected matter under 35 U.S.C. 101.

In response, claims 1 and 5 have been amended to clarify that the recited methods are “computer-implemented” and therefore tied to technology art. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 5, as amended, as well as their dependent claims 2-4 and 6-13, comply with 35 U.S.C. 101.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1-14 are patentable. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the claims as now presented.

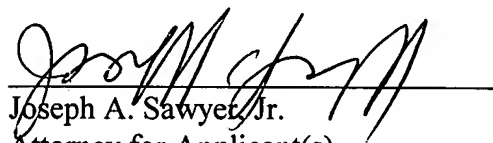
Applicants' attorney believes that this application is in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

SAWYER LAW GROUP LLP

January 15, 2007

Date

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joseph A. Sawyer, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line.

Joseph A. Sawyer, Jr.

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